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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. 25X1ATOPIC Military Information from AltenburgEVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A25X1A OF CONTENT 25X1A OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 7 January 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

MARKS

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1. On 10 December 1953, the barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse in Altenburg was occupied by about 1,000 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The garages were closed. On 13 November, 2 generals and 6 to 8 high-ranking Soviet officers inspected the installation. Training activity included daily athletic exercises and close-order drill by 100 to 150 soldiers. Five or 6 trucks including each occupied by about 20 to 25 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were frequently seen moving out of the installation. Motor vehicles were in the billeting area.¹

2. On 10 December, the barracks installation on the east side of Leipziger Strasse was occupied by an estimated 400 to 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. The installation was only 30 to 35 percent lighted at dusk. About 80 to 100 soldiers engaged in athletic exercises and close-order drill in the billeting area. The railroad siding leading into the installation was put into operation at the beginning of December.

3. On 13 November, 20 trucks were entrained at the freight station in Altenburg.

4. The officers' quarters on Leipziger Strasse were still 50 percent vacant. Four houses on the same street were evacuated by the German inhabitants. Soviet dependents were to move in soon. Several other houses for Soviet dependents were to be confiscated on Hausweg and Beethoven Strasse.

5. On 5 December, the barracks installation on the east side of Leipziger Strasse was occupied by 250 to 400 troops. On 30 November, 70 soldiers did entrenching work and other soldiers practiced driving with two trucks. On 2 December, 150 soldiers made practice marches. A prime mover towing a 122-mm howitzer moved out of the installation. Soldiers trained with a 152-mm gun in the billeting area. About 40 soldiers practiced with a battery commander's telescope. Motor vehicles

 in traffic to and from the installation.⁴

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6. On 5 December, the barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse was occupied by about 450 troops. On 2 December, soldiers engaged in athletic exercises and practice marches. Motor vehicles [redacted]

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7. Residents told source that two large apartment houses and several detached buildings near the barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse were confiscated by the Soviets.¹

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1. [redacted] Comment. The barracks installation on the west side of Leipziger Strasse has been reported reoccupied by 1,000 troops for the first time since the fall exercises. The second source reported the installation to have been occupied by between 350 and 700 men since October. [redacted] vaguely indicate the 43d Gds Army Arty Brig. The second source also reported heavy guns in October and November. [redacted]

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2. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] also previously been reported by the second source, the 38th Army AT Arty Brig is still carried in the installation on the east side of Leipziger Strasse. The first source confirms the second source, according to which about 500 troops were in the installation in October and November. Thus, the strength estimates by the two sources add up to only about 50 percent of the strength believed to be correct for the two brigades. Although little training activity reported from some of the other military posts in some instances led to erroneous strength estimates, the information contained in paragraph 4 of this report may be an indication that the barracks installations are not occupied to capacity.

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